

City of Banks nears completion of 2003-04 budget process

The City of Banks Budget Committee concluded its work May 29, making final changes to the proposed budget. A request for funding from Little Guy Football was referred to the city council and will be considered at the June council

meeting. The regularly scheduled June 10 council meeting was postponed until June 17 due to lack of a quorum.

In order to allow for greater spending flexibility, Traffic Impact Funds were exchanged with Washington County for

MSTIP funds designated for traffic improvements in small cities. This allowed the committee to use \$130,000 for the Sellers Road realignment, \$50,000 for a public works facility to be built next to the library, and \$20,000 for improvements

on Oak Way. The total budgeted for Oak Way improvements will be \$101,000.

Previous adjustments made by the committee include:

- An increase of \$15,000 in the amount transferred from the general fund to the police department for a new car.
- \$1000 for the purchase of Christmas decorations.
- Increase of \$15,000 in the amount transferred from the water fund to the water depreciation fund.
- Denied an additional \$1500 transfer to the library fund, but allowed the library to continue paying PERS benefits to part-time library employees.

The approved budget also

differed from previous years' budgets by allocating wages and salaries, insurance and worker compensation across funds to accurately represent where employee time is spent. A balloon payment from the sale of property will be used to reduce the city's debt (in the Water Fund) and increase bonding capacity.

The budget was unanimously approved by committee members Robert Murdoch, Brian Biehl, Jeanette Granny, Kirk Andrews, John Deegan, Teri Branstitre, Jim Brandstitre Gary Coffey and Bob Orlovski. The city council must make any last minute changes and adopt the budget by June 30.

AVHA again tries to move City along on Greenville Park action

Benjamin Pearl, Secretary/Treasurer of Arbor Village Homeowners Association (AVHA), told the Banks City Council, June 15, that the AVHA believed the Parks Maintenance Agreement (PMA) would not remain in effect after July 1st, and suggested that AVHA would stop watering the park and/or stop paying the water bill.

Following a mid-council executive session, Councilor Ryan Birr told Pearl that the PMA is a management agreement that gives AVHA control of activities in Greenville Park through the composition of the Parks committee in consideration for money for park maintenance

required by AVHA CC&R's. According to Birr, continuation of the existing agreement while discussing funding options allows for continued operation.

Following discussion about possibly replacing, or supplementing, the maintenance agreement with a levy, council members directed city attorney Jim Lucas to begin drafting a park levy and to furnish the parks committee with information and model levies.

Council must approve a levy at their July 8 meeting in order to get it to the Washington County elections office by the July 17th deadline for inclusion on the September ballot.

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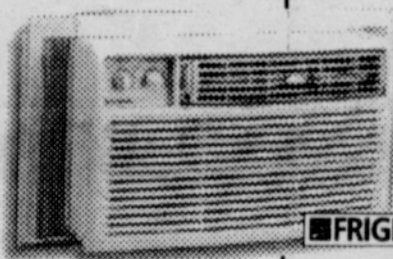
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